



#6 Declaration
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Vahan Avetisian, et al.
Appl. No.: 09/733,813
Filed: December 08, 2000
Title: "Overmolded Body for Pyrotechnic Initiator and Method of Molding Same"

Group/A.U.: 3641
Examiner: Harold Jay Tudor

Docket No.: 259/175

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DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

We, Vahan Avetisian and George Karloff, do declare and state as follows:

1. All statements herein are made based on our own personal knowledge except where it is indicated that a statement is based on information and belief. All statements made of our own knowledge are true, and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. All statements are made by both of us, except where it is indicated that a specific statement is made by only one of us.
2. We are the coinventors of originally-filed claims 1-5, 7-16, 19, and 20 of the above-identified patent application ("this patent application"). For reference, a copy of the originally-filed specification, including original claims 1-20, is attached as Exhibit A.
3. Prior to April 6, 1999, we conceived of the idea of making an overmolded initiator generally as described in this patent application and claimed in its original claims 1-5, 7-16, 19, and 20. Our conception prior to April 6, 1999 included the features of an overmolded initiator manufactured by high-pressure insert-injection molding, with molten nylon injected at the top of an initiator subassembly and flowing downwardly along it.
4. Attached as Exhibit B is a sequence of three drawings with the title, "MGG 3/30/99 DESIGN REVIEW RESULTS." The right-most drawing, entitled "BACKUP DESIGN," depicts an embodiment of our concept of an overmolded initiator wherein an overmolded body surrounds an initiator subassembly. The drawings of Exhibit B were distributed and reviewed at a meeting held by Special Devices, Incorporated (the assignee of this patent application) in Moorpark, California, on March 30, 1999. That meeting was attended by us and a number of other Special Devices employees and officers.
5. Although the pertinent drawing of Exhibit B bears the title "BACKUP DESIGN," Special Devices diligently sought to reduce the overmolded body design to practice following the March 30, 1999 meeting. In fact, within three weeks of that meeting, on April 20, 1999, a detailed specification drawing had been prepared for the design. Attached as Exhibit C is Special Devices' Drawing No. SK7270, entitled "INITIATOR ASSEMBLY (MGG)." As can be seen, the "DRAWN" date of this drawing is 4/20/99, it was checked and approved on 4/30/99, and it was approved for its original release on 5/3/99. Among other things, Drawing No. SK7270 was

needed in order to provide the pertinent specifications to a mold supplier that could build a mold in which to make initial units of the overmolded body initiator design.

6. After releasing Drawing No. SK7270, on May 6, 1999, I, Vahan Avetisian, initiated Special Devices Purchase Requisition No. 69098, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit D, in order to have a mold prepared for Special Devices in which to make units of the overmolded body initiator design. As can be seen from the shaded portions at the right of Exhibit D, Purchase Requisition No. 69098 had a PO Date of 5/14/99, and set a due date of 7/9(99) for the supplier to provide the mold.

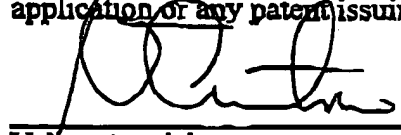
7. Special Devices continued its work on the overmolded body initiator design, and as can be seen from Exhibit C, Drawing No. SK7270 was modified (adding a callout for a radius to the top of the nylon overmolded body, and providing dimensions for washer and slot) resulting in a Revision A dated May 20, 1999. I, Vahan Avetisian, checked and approved Drawing No. SK7270 and approved its original release and its Revision A.

8. I, Vahan Avetisian, know that the mold ordered by Purchase Requisition No. 69098 was completed and provided to Special Devices by July 1999; pictures of the mold that was provided are attached hereto as Exhibit E. I, Vahan Avetisian, also know that an overmolded body initiator was manufactured by Special Devices using that mold during July 1999.

9. I, Vahan Avetisian, know that the picture attached as Exhibit F is a picture of an overmolded body initiator that was made in July 1999 using the mold shown in Exhibit E. The pictured unit has a nylon overmolded body surrounding an initiator subassembly (except for protruding pins, which are not shown in the picture) as shown in Drawing No. SK7270, and was made by injection of molten nylon around an inserted initiator subassembly and retainer, at high pressure, with the nylon injected at the top of the initiator subassembly and flowing downwardly around it. I, Vahan Avetisian, know that a first round of successful ballistic testing of overmolded initiators made in the mold of Exhibit E was conducted by July 19, 1999, confirming that they were suitable for their intended use. Attached as Exhibit G is a copy of a test request associated with the July 19, 1999 testing.

10. From at least April 6, 1999 until the first successful manufacture of an overmolded initiator in July of 1999, work toward reducing to practice the overmolded initiator body design proceeded diligently and pursuant to Special Devices' customary procedures and practices, and was not unnecessarily delayed during that time.

11. We understand that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both (18 U.S.C. § 1001), and may jeopardize the validity of this patent application or any patent issuing thereon.


Vahan Avetisian

Date: June 10th, 2002


George Karloff

Date: June 10th, 2002